

Message Text

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FOR SCICON

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TGEN, JA

SUBJECT: U.S.-JAPAN AGREEMENT ON COOPERATION IN THE FIELDS
OF HEALTH, BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH AND REHABILITATION

REF: TOKYO 2407

1. DHEW AND STATE APPRECIATE YOUR DETAILED REPORT ON THE
DRAFT AGREEMENT. OUR RESPONSE TO QUESTIONS IS KEYED TO
REFTEL:

2A. RECOGNIZING THE EXCELLENCE OF ONGOING COOPERATIVE PRO-
GRAMS AND THE NEED TO SUSTAIN THEIR MOMENTUM, IT IS IMP-
ORTANT TO EMPHASIZE THAT ONGOING COOPERATION WILL CONTINUE
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UNDER THE NEW AGREEMENT. ALTHOUGH THE OLD AGREEMENTS
WOULD BE SUPPLANTED BY THE NEW AGREEMENT, EXISTING COOPE-
RATIVE MECHANISMS WOULD BE RETAINED UNLESS OTHERWISE
DECIDED BY THE JOINT COMMITTEE.
THE AGREEMENTS AFFECTED ARE THE U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATIVE
MEDICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM, U.S.-JAPAN CANCER PROGRAM, U.S.-
JAPAN VISION PROGRAM, AND INFORMAL ACTIVITIES ESTABLISHED

BY FDA AND MOH. THE MAIN BENEFIT OF THE NEW AGREEMENT IS TO ESTABLISH A SINGLE METHODOLOGY FOR ALL ACTIVITIES INCLUDING A JOINT COMMITTEE FOR COORDINATION AND SETTING PRIORITIES AMONG MAJOR PROGRAM ELEMENTS WHEN NECESSARY FOR BUDGETARY PURPOSES.

2B. JAPAN SHOULD DETERMINE APPROPRIATE ROLE OF ITS FOREIGN MINISTRY. CONCEIVABLY THE ROLE COULD BE TO ACT AS "SENIOR" MINISTRY TO FACILITATE AGREEMENT BETWEEN MOHW AND MOE. THE MATTER OF A COORDINATION MECHANISM IS CLEARLY OF CONCERN TO THE JAPANESE AND THEREFORE IT MAY BE USEFUL TO NOTE THAT WE WOULD NOT INSIST ON SYMMETRY IN ORGANIZATIONAL ARRANGEMENTS ON BOTH SIDES. FURTHERMORE WE COULD AGREE TO CHANGES IN ARTICLE 3, WHICH WE BELIEVE WOULD REMOVE ORGANIZATIONAL QUESTIONS AS A BARRIER TO AGREEMENT. SPECIFICALLY, WE COULD AGREE TO DELETE THE FIRST TWO PARAGRAPHS OF ARTICLE 3 AND TO REVISE THE FIRST SENTENCE OF THE THIRD PARAGRAPH TO READ: "A UNITED STATES-JAPAN JOINT COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH, BIOMEDICAL RESEARCH, AND REHABILITATION COOPERATION WILL BE ESTABLISHED. DELETE THE SENTENCE "THE PRINCIPAL COORDINATORS FOR BOTH PARTIES WILL BE ADVISED AS SUCH CHANGES OCCUR." WE SUGGEST THESE CHANGES TO FACILITATE NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE DEPARTMENT WOULD DESIGNATE DHEW AS U.S. EXECUTIVE AGENCY FOR IMPLEMENTING THE AGREEMENT.

2C. INTEREST IN DHEW EXISTS FOR COLLABORATIVE ACTIVITIES IN SOCIAL WELFARE AND SOCIAL SECURITY, HOWEVER, IT IS NOT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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YET IN POSITION TO MAKE COMMITMENT. ARTICLE 8 INTENDED TO INDICATE DEFINITE INTEREST IN EXPANDING INTO THESE FIELDS LATER.

2D. FUNDING, AS IN EXISTING AGREEMENTS, WILL ALMOST ENTIRELY BE THE RESPONSIBILITY OF GOVERNMENTS IN WHICH PROJECTS OR ACTIVITIES ACTUALLY OCCURRING, I.E. IT NOT CONSIDERED LIKELY THAT U.S. WOULD FUND JAPANESE ACTIVITIES OR VICE VERSA.

2. WE DO NOT CONSIDER A MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING AN ACCEPTABLE SOLUTION. WE PREFER TO CONTINUE NEGOTIATIONS UNTIL AGREEMENT REACHED BY BOTH SIDES.

3. FOR LONG RANGE BENEFIT TO COOPERATIVE HEALTH PROGRAM WE PREFER HIGHEST LEVEL APPROVAL OF NEW AGREEMENT, NOTING THAT U.S.-JAPAN COOPERATIVE MEDICAL SCIENCE PROGRAM WAS ESTABLISHED AT A MEETING BETWEEN PRESIDENT JOHNSON AND PRIME MINISTER SATO IN 1965.

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